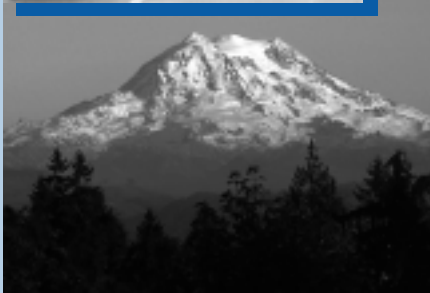


**Rep. Skip Priest**

## 30<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Report



Winter 2003

### **Hello from Olympia,**

The opinions of those I represent are first and foremost in my mind as we work on issues that matter to you in the 2003 legislative session.

We've already seen progress in two important areas: government accountability and affordable health care. In the House, we passed legislation designed to make sure state government is more accountable to Washington taxpayers with performance audit measures and another bill to help reduce the cost of prescription drugs.

The committees I serve on — Higher Education and Capital Budget as Assistant Ranking Republican as well as Trade & Economic Development — are tackling critical issues:

- Filling the state's \$2 billion budget hole;
- Improving our economy; and
- Providing opportunities for our future workforce in Washington.

I look forward to your feedback. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

*Skip Priest*

Skip Priest



## **Town Hall – You're Invited!**

**Please join me at the  
30<sup>th</sup> District Town Hall Meeting  
Saturday, March 22**

- **1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** *Highline Community College,  
Federal Way Campus*

Thanks to all of you who have come to visit me in my Olympia office to share your important thoughts on the budget and other key issues. I’ve had the pleasure of hosting teachers, representatives of the Korean community, firefighters, employers and environmental leaders. I’d also like to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete our survey.

Budget & Spending

It’s estimated that the state is facing a \$2.4 billion deficit simply to continue the services we are currently providing. How should the Legislature deal with the deficit?

- ☐ Cut public services, don’t raise taxes (please specify where spending could be cut):
- ☐ Raise taxes, don’t cut public services.
- ☐ Rely mostly on cuts with modest tax increases.
- ☐ Rely mostly on tax increases with modest cuts in services.
- ☐ Other (please provide details):

If you prefer that some or all of the budget deficit be made up through cuts, which areas of the budget do you believe should receive cuts?

- ☐ K-12 education
- ☐ Higher education
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Environmental regulation
- ☐ Corrections & prisons
- ☐ Law enforcement
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ Other (please provide details):

Gambling in Washington

There is a move afoot to expand gambling in Washington. Some think it’s a fairness issue and will help increase state revenues through new tax collections, others think it will bring more addiction and crime. What do you think?

- ☐ I support increased gambling. Why:
- ☐ I don’t want to see more gambling. Why:

New primary

Currently, we vote in September for the primary that helps us decide who will run in the general election. Some argue that doesn’t give voters or candidates enough time, and they’re proposing moving it to June. Do you agree?

- ☐ Yes. Why:
- ☐ No. Why:

Education

In 2000, voters approved Initiative 732, to give teachers and K-12 employees automatic cost-of-living increases, and Initiative 728, increasing funding for class-size reduction. At the time, the supporters wrote in the voters’ pamphlet that we could afford these measures without tax increases or cuts to other services. This statement is now untrue. Given the budget deficit we now face, what best describes your opinion about these initiatives?

- ☐ The voters have spoken and these initiatives should be fully funded, even if it means tax increases or cutting services for other citizens.
- ☐ Funding for these initiative should be postponed until the budget deficit is brought under control.
- ☐ We should continue funding one of them but not the other. Which initiative do you continue to support?
- ☐ These initiatives should go back on the ballot to see if voters still support funding them.
- ☐ Other (please provide details):

Update me

I would like periodic email updates on issues being addressed in Olympia. My email address is:

You may also request a copy of this survey in an electronic format: priest\_sk@leg.wa.gov.

Thank you!

Please mail survey to Rep. Skip Priest, P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600.

Visit the new House Republican Caucus Web site and my member page: <http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/priest.htm>

